

Storytime Crafts Attendee Contributions

The following is a compilation of shared attendee comments during the Texas State Library & Archives Commission's January 24, 2017 *Storytime Crafts* webinar presented by Kim Lehman.

Crafts You Can Make from Shredded Newspaper Suggested By Attendees

- A spider
- A bird's nest
- Snow
- A comet
- Snowballs (Activity: Snowball fight!)
- Sheep
- Grass for animals
- Hair
- Clouds
- Lion's mane
- Add circles for spaghetti
- Earth Day Tear blue and green paper for the earth

Other Craft Ideas and Related Suggestions

- We never see snow so we made fake snow with baking soda and conditioner for older kids they had fun making fake snowmen for January with the story Snowmen all year
- For headpieces and other wearables, I cover staples with a piece of tape to protect skin/prevent tangled hair
- I always put a large box lid in the center of our craft area to use as a garbage box. My storytime kids are great about putting all their trash in it-- they seem to have fun doing it, and it keeps our children's room tidy!
- We do lion masks where we cut out the entire face, then glue different brown squares for the mane. attach to a craft stick for the kids to hold
- Pete's A Pizza is a great book for the pizza craft
- Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza (for the pizza craft)
- Cut out the inside of a paper plate and make astronaut helmets.
- tear a roll of toilet paper into bits, shred a bar of ivory soap, mix with water, pour into TP... makes clean mud or snow
- we did a sensory where I got bubble wrap, sand paper, canvas, sil, velvet, furry material and so so on and the kids took their shoes off and walked on them and they loved using their feet
- for weaving (and spider story time), use a small white plate, cut 1/2 slits around, tape a piece of white yarn to the back and have them weave their own spider web. Give them a cut out of a spider to attach when they are done!

- I printed several sweater coloring pages onto 1 page and cut them out and had them glue yarn on them. They loved making their own sweater and touching all the yarn :)
- we made magic button bracelets with pipecleaners and buttons for a Pete the Cat Party
- we made dinosaur tails with very large triangles and tied with yarn. they collaged with paper shapes.
- Tickle stick would be great with "Tickle Monster"
- Tomorrow, I'm doing all wordless picture books, and afterward the kids can make their own book (2 strips of white paper stapled in the middle and folded). I want to see if they tell me a story when they're done!
- you can glue small things with a qtip
- love corks! trace a large circle on black construction paper. let the kids cork paint a mixture of white and gray paint and they have the moon!
- I have made story stones and encouraged the children to tell a story from the 5 stones they picked.

Other Craft Storage Suggestions

- I love using the dollar tins from Target for craft supplies. You can get fun seasonal ones too!
- I have large binders, and store example and leftover pieces in clear page holders
- We use large ziplocs, stored in large bins

Non-messy Painting Suggestions (Other than Cork)

- Q-tips
- Dish-washing brush

Ideas for Drying or Sending Home Wet Projects

- Blow dryer on low
- We collect shallow boxes and lids and put wet projects in them to take home.

Scissors vs. Pre-cutting

- I pre-cut items before class because I have too many kids without enough adult supervision during my preschool storytime class.
- I pre-cut because I have a wide range of ages from babies up to about 5 or 6 and not all of them could cut. However, if you have a closer age and the cutting isn't difficult, I would have them cut out since it is great fine motor.
- I use scissors. It's good for their fine motor skills and many kids don't know how to use them in kinder so they need the experience earlier. I also use cutting patterns for little ones but it really doesn't matter as long as they practice. Tweezers and tongs can be used to develop those muscles also.

- I remind parents that scissors are completely developmentally appropriate WITH SUPERVISION. :)

How to Handle A Wide Age Range

- I have the older kids help the younger ones with their crafts. It works for everyone. Older kids feel special and younger ones get the help they need.

Food Programs and Food Allergies

- For food allergies I ask [parents and caregivers] if any of the children have any allergies when they sign up at the beginning of the session. This way I know if there are any allergies to keep in mind. Also, I send a paper home with parents before any major holiday alerting them that there is an allergy if we have one in our group.
- We have snacks somewhat regularly, so I ask the parents to let me know if there is an allergy of any kind if they don't mind. They always do, and there has never been an issue.